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**Testimony on Senate Bill 426 An Act  
Protecting Patients from Inappropriate Billing Practices  
Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
February 7, 2017**

Senators Kelly and Larson, Representative Scanlon and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society and the physician members of the undersigned organizations, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to you today on **Bill 426 An Act Protecting Patients from Inappropriate Billing Practices.**

We support efforts to ensure that patients who purchase health insurance and seek services for services prudently thought to be provided by in-network providers do not experience inappropriate and increased levels of financial exposure. As it appears that the language in SB 426 relates specifically to charges by a health carrier to a patient, we agree with the protection

However, it should be clarified that such language would not disadvantage physicians or other health care providers who for various reasons might not be a network provider, yet would be required to provide care.

SB 426 appears to be a piece of a larger conversation that must take place to ensure not only that patients are held harmless from inappropriate billing practices, but also that physicians and other health care providers are not forced into contractual arrangement not viable for their practices, or to be reimbursed based not on the cost of their services, but at the discretion of a health insurer. Some insurer contracts may run counter to a physician standards of care delivery, not providing patients with the necessary access to care and we do not want any physician being required to sign a contract that does not provide what the physician feels is sufficient or appropriate reimbursement but also may not be consistent with the physicians medical ethics and belief in what constitutes medical necessity care.

We look forward to working with members of the Committee and all stakeholders as issues these issues are discussed.

CT Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society  
CT ENT Society  
CT Society of Eye Physicians  
CT Urology Society